



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 17th, 2020

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Remote Participation

Attendees: Commissioners Cynthia DeAngelis (Chair), Darcy Devney, Paul Raia, Karen Mathiasen, Maureen St. Hilaire (Co-Chair), Paul Parravano, Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Kerrie Fallon

Absent: Liza Molina

Guests: Jillian Harvey (DEI Coordinator), Grace Carpenter (Volunteer), Ellen Leigh (Disability Advocate), Joanne Spector (Volunteer)

Minutes

Meeting is called to order at 4:07pm.

1. Call to Order- Read Ground Rules, Welcome
 - a. Review remote participation and virtual setting guidelines.
 - b. DeAngelis welcomes Joanne Spector as new volunteer, Joanne introduces herself.
2. Approve May Minutes
 - a. Motion moved to approve by Parravano, unanimously approved.
3. Continuing Virtual Meetings
 - a. DeAngelis proposes continuing virtual meetings until there is a COVID19 vaccine available, as this group is part of vulnerable population. When in person meetings are allowed this group will continue to meet virtually.
 - b. St. Hilaire proposed motion to extend virtual meetings throughout the end of the 2020 year, seconded by Parravano and all in favor.
 - c. Concerns were addressed regarding going before the finance committee, the group does not need to. The next meetings in July and August will map out the funding for the upcoming year.
4. Check-Ins
 - a. Moving this agenda item to the end due to timing.

5. Budget Update

- a. Harvey confirms that all current funds have been spent
- b. Harvey will check with Christine Bongiorno on the process for spending funds moving forward.
 - i. There is \$25,000 that is available- as long as specific requests/plans are made to use it
 - ii. Discuss using some of the funding to make improvements for those who are hearing impaired, projects in the transition & implementation plan for town buildings
 - iii. July meeting will be held discuss funding further and determine if the August meeting will be held.

6. Committee Updates (15 min)

- a. Raia
 - i. Has not been attending high school meetings, feels that what is currently happening does not address what the group has been concerned about.
 - ii. Attending voting and elections committee, is willing to hand over seat to Parravano as he is interested. Voting primarily by mail went well for town election will continue that effort moving forward.
 - iii. Suggestions to have school committee member come to us, or we all go there: respond to letter, June 30th delay to appear at July 15th meeting.
- b. Devney
 - i. Sustainable Transportation Advisory Group, addressed the feedback that disability and low-income group were not a focus in the 20 questions that were asked.
 - ii. Devney sent an email to Daniel Amstutz to address the concerns. The will be holding addition focus groups, to gain more input.
 - iii. Addressing letters of concern that have been sent, we need to think of ideas to reach a wider net and gain larger view of disability and low-income communities. There is still ample time for public participation so we need to let people know.
 - iv. If people need to speak with someone the Arlington list is not the way to go, call someone or email them in the town.
 - v. Two committees the Transportation Advisory and Sustainable Transportation Advisory Group: Town has Transportation Advisory Committee which reports to Select Board on specific issues. The Sustainable Transportation Advisory Group was established to oversee a program of increasing transportation and mobility in town.

- c. Rademacher
 - i. The sidewalk replacement project in the center of town is underway. Rademacher met with contractor, hopefully start in a week or two, talked about accessibility and to keep in mind businesses' needs, the replacement will take place block by block.
 - ii. The other notable project is the bike path and lake street intersection being improved, more visible signals for all modes of traffic.
- d. Others
 - i. DeAngelis noted that when the group meets with High School to make note that the majority of kids with disabilities are at a disadvantage for virtual learning.
 - ii. Virtual learning, there is lots of discussion around all the challenges and difficulties, want to speak with special education director- remote learning, hearing, vision, autism and more.

7. DEI Updates

- a. Harvey and town will be hosting webinar series on current issues stay tuned for the Community Conversations series.
- b. Harvey does have a DEI webpage now on the town website which will be an additional channel to share information: arlingtonma.gov/DEI
- c. Reminder the ADA Self-Evaluation Transition and Implementation Plan event is 6/25 at 6pm virtually.
- d. Facebook: Worked with webmaster to try and find old page, there does not need seem to be one. Will create new Arlington Disability Commission FB page, but need a volunteer to manage the page
 - i. DeAngelis, Carpenter and St. Hilaire have volunteered to run this page. Will contact them to get things started.
- e. AHS Building Committee
 - i. To hear updates and provide public comment next meeting is 07/07/2020 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM, when available I will provide the zoom info to attend.
 - ii. Members of the public are asked to send written comment to ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us. Documents regarding agenda items will be made available via the Town's website.
- f. Harvey makes note that this could be discussed now or later under retreat. She is looking to have a task group to work with her on a business bias & discrimination training/workshop/ initiative which will be a joint effort working with the Rainbow and Human Rights commissions.
 - i. Leigh, Fallon and DeAngelis have volunteered to join this task group.

8. Retreat Discussion

- a. DeAngelis notes that first we need to clarify where we need training, organizing and planning for the current year
 - i. Doug Heim will at some point give us run down of what our mission/parameters and charge is as a commission through a training.
 - 1. Are we overseers? Do we make recommendations? Do we create events, programs, etc.?
 - ii. Retreat will be virtual, so what do members want to do?
- b. Key things to consider: How to engage and become more action oriented, how to we become organized; what positions do we want, and will people step up to it.
 - i. Every member should have a portfolio/area of expertise to better represent the commission in other arenas, and expect to spend 10hrs a month on committee business.
- c. DeAngelis and Mathiasen would like to lead planning the retreat.
 - i. It will be helpful if we have different facilitators during the retreat to take on certain portions
 - 1. Paul R, Darcy D- can cover committees, Paul P- how to set and stay focused on priorities/ goals for next year/big to dos
- d. Community group building
- e. Set some goals/look at a calendar
- f. Potential sub-committees that can start to work on things

9. Priorities for next meeting's agenda

- a. Discuss the Town Disability website: what do you think, is it accessible, is it easy to navigate, boring, feedback, is it easy to find?
- b. Retreat
- c. Commendation on Police chief for proper dealing with emotionally distressed youth during protest; Raia will draft and share
- d. Discuss moving the meeting time to 3-5pm, proposed by Parravano.

Meeting adjourns: 6:05pm